



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

***Raised Bill No. 1227***

LCO No. 3899

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:  
(ED )

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
COMMISSION ON THE TEACHER AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR  
SHORTAGE AND MINORITY RECRUITMENT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1      Section 1. (NEW) (a) The Department of Education shall establish,  
2      within available appropriations, a program to prepare  
3      paraprofessionals who have been successful in the classroom for  
4      teaching careers. The program shall operate in priority school districts  
5      pursuant to section 10-266p of the general statutes.
- 6      (b) The program shall assist paraprofessionals to become certified  
7      teachers. Such assistance may include, but need not be limited to,  
8      payment of the tuition and fees directly related to the training  
9      necessary to become a certified teacher. The amount of assistance  
10     provided to each paraprofessional pursuant to this section shall not  
11     exceed ten thousand dollars per year. The department shall establish  
12     criteria for paraprofessionals for participation in the program.
- 13     (c) The Commissioners of Education and Higher Education shall  
14     identify institutions of higher education to provide the necessary

15 teacher training for the program. Each priority school district shall  
16 select paraprofessionals to participate in the program based on the  
17 criteria established by the department pursuant to subsection (b) of  
18 this section and in consultation with the institutions of higher  
19 education.

20 (d) For purposes of this section, "paraprofessional" means an  
21 employee of a local or regional board of education who does not  
22 possess a certificate issued by the State Board of Education and who  
23 serves as an instructional assistant for such local or regional board of  
24 education.

25 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 10-183e of the general statutes is  
26 amended by adding subdivision (15) as follows:

27 (NEW) (15) Service as an apprentice teacher under the program  
28 established pursuant to section 1 of this act.

29 Sec. 3. Section 10-155d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
30 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

31 (a) The Board of Governors of Higher Education shall encourage  
32 and support experimentation and research in the preparation of  
33 teachers for public elementary and secondary schools. [and shall  
34 continue the study and evaluation conducted pursuant to section 10-  
35 324a of the 1965 supplement to the general statutes.] To help fulfill the  
36 purposes of this section, the Board of Governors of Higher Education  
37 shall appoint an advisory council composed of qualified professionals  
38 which shall render assistance and advice to [said] the board. In  
39 carrying out its activities pursuant to this section, [said] the board shall  
40 consult with the State Board of Education and such other agencies as it  
41 deems appropriate to assure coordination of all activities of the state  
42 relating to the preparation of teachers for public elementary and  
43 secondary schools.

44 (b) The Department of Higher Education shall expand, within

45 available appropriations, participation in its alternate route to  
46 certification program to five hundred graduates per year. The  
47 department shall limit participation in the week-end program to  
48 participants seeking certification in a subject shortage area pursuant to  
49 section 10-8b. The department, in collaboration with the Department of  
50 Education, shall develop additional alternate route programs targeted  
51 to the subject shortage areas and to particular types of working  
52 professionals who may be interested in switching careers.

53 (c) The Departments of Higher Education and Education and the  
54 regional educational service centers shall contract, within available  
55 appropriations, with institutions of higher education or other  
56 education entities to provide test preparation classes for the teacher  
57 certification examination.

58 Sec. 4. (NEW) The Department of Higher Education shall establish,  
59 within available appropriations, a fellows program to allow qualified  
60 recent college graduates to enter teaching through a four-week  
61 intensive summer session focusing on classroom management and  
62 methodology. The department shall require participants to pass the  
63 teacher certification examination or qualify for a waiver of the  
64 examination. The department shall provide stipends of two thousand  
65 five hundred dollars to each participant in the program. After  
66 successful completion of the summer session, participants in the  
67 program shall teach in a local or regional school district that agrees to  
68 provide the participant with a master teacher. The local or regional  
69 board of education shall allow the master teacher to spend two  
70 preparation and mentoring sessions per day for a minimum of one  
71 semester to work with the participant. The department shall pay each  
72 master teacher a stipend of five thousand dollars. Participants shall  
73 attend weekly seminars during the school year to meet the alternate  
74 route to certification curricular requirements.

75 Sec. 5. (NEW) The Departments of Higher Education and Education  
76 shall establish, within available appropriations, a program to allow

77 college seniors who are majoring in subject shortage areas pursuant to  
78 section 10-8b of the general statutes but are not enrolled in a teacher  
79 preparation program to receive up to three credits for working as cadet  
80 teachers in a public school. Upon graduation and recommendation by  
81 school officials, participants in the program may enter the fellows  
82 program established pursuant to section 4 of this act.

83       Sec. 6. (NEW) The Department of Higher Education shall establish,  
84 within available appropriations, a competitive grant program for  
85 public and independent institutions of higher education for the  
86 establishment of one-year Master of Arts in Teaching programs. The  
87 department shall award two grants for institutions of higher education  
88 to use over a two-year period for startup costs for the development of  
89 such master programs. The department shall issue a request for  
90 proposals for purposes of this section. In reviewing the proposals and  
91 awarding the grants, the department shall give preference to programs  
92 that focus on subject shortage areas pursuant to section 10-8b of the  
93 general statutes and that include a minority outreach component.

94       Sec. 7. Subsection (d) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is  
95 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

96       (d) The [state] Department of Education may fund, within available  
97 appropriations, in cooperation with one or more regional educational  
98 service centers: (1) A cooperating teacher program to train Connecticut  
99 public school teachers and certified teachers at private special  
100 education facilities approved by the Commissioner of Education and at  
101 other facilities designated by the commissioner, who participate in the  
102 supervision, training and evaluation of student teachers; (2) institutes  
103 to provide continuing education for Connecticut public school  
104 educators, assessors and cooperating teachers and teacher mentors,  
105 including institutes to provide continuing education for Connecticut  
106 public school educators offered in cooperation with the Connecticut  
107 Humanities Council; and (3) a beginning teacher support and  
108 assessment program to train Connecticut public school teachers and

109 other qualified persons approved by the Commissioner of Education  
110 and certified teachers at such private special education and other  
111 designated facilities who serve as mentors or assessors for beginning  
112 teachers and who supervise, train and assist or assess beginning  
113 teachers in their initial years in teaching and to pay stipends to  
114 mentors and assessors. [Funds available under this subsection shall be  
115 paid directly to school districts] The department shall pay mentors  
116 stipends of one thousand dollars per school year and shall use any  
117 remaining funds to pay school districts directly for the provision of  
118 substitute teachers when cooperating teachers, teacher mentors,  
119 beginning teachers and assessors are released from regular classroom  
120 responsibilities and for the provision of professional development  
121 activities for cooperating and student teachers, teacher mentors,  
122 assessors and beginning teachers. The cooperating teacher and  
123 beginning teacher support and assessment programs shall operate in  
124 accordance with regulations which shall be adopted by the State Board  
125 of Education pursuant to chapter 54. Student teachers shall be placed  
126 with trained cooperating teachers. Beginning teachers shall participate  
127 in a beginning teacher support and assessment program as made  
128 available by the board. School districts shall be responsible for  
129 providing support to beginning teachers which shall include, but not  
130 be limited to, the placement of beginning teachers with trained teacher  
131 mentors who may be full or part-time teachers in the same or a  
132 different building than the beginning teacher and provision of trained  
133 assessors to conduct assessments of beginning teachers. Cooperating  
134 teachers, teacher mentors and assessors may serve concurrently in  
135 more than one capacity and may be assigned more than one student  
136 teacher or beginning teacher in each such capacity. The assessment of  
137 each beginning teacher shall be based upon, but not limited to, data  
138 obtained from observations conducted by assessors using an  
139 assessment instrument. [Notwithstanding any regulation to the  
140 contrary, the State Board of Education may require less than six  
141 observations as part of such assessment for the fiscal year ending June  
142 30, 1992, and may establish different assessment standards for use

143 during such fiscal year.] Notwithstanding any regulation to the  
144 contrary, a beginning teacher need not be assessed by a certified  
145 teacher who holds a certification endorsement in the same general  
146 subject area as such beginning teacher. Cooperating teachers and  
147 teacher mentors who are Connecticut public school teachers and  
148 assessors who are employed by school districts shall be selected by  
149 local and regional boards of education. Cooperating teachers and  
150 teacher mentors and assessors at such private special education and  
151 other designated facilities shall be selected by the authority responsible  
152 for the operation of such facilities. If a board of education is unable to  
153 identify a sufficient number of individuals to serve in such positions,  
154 the commissioner may select qualified persons who are not employed  
155 by the board of education to serve in such positions. Such regulations  
156 shall require primary consideration of teachers' classroom experience  
157 and recognized success as educators. The provisions of sections 10-  
158 153a to 10-153n, inclusive, shall not be applicable to the selection,  
159 placement and compensation of persons participating in the  
160 cooperating teacher and beginning teacher support and assessment  
161 programs pursuant to the provisions of this section and to the hours  
162 and duties of such persons. The State Board of Education shall protect  
163 and save harmless, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-235,  
164 any cooperating teacher, teacher mentor or assessor while serving in  
165 such capacity.

166       Sec. 8. (NEW) The Department of Education, in cooperation with the  
167 Department of Higher Education, shall establish a cross endorsement  
168 program in each subject shortage area pursuant to section 10-8b of the  
169 general statutes, to allow certified teachers to add a new endorsement  
170 to their certificates.

171       Sec. 9. The Department of Education shall arrange, within available  
172 appropriations, for an independent study of teacher and school  
173 administrator compensation. The study shall examine: (1) Increasing  
174 compensation in return for a longer teacher day or year and for  
175 teachers who take on additional duties such as mentoring and training

176 new teachers, or who attain additional qualifications such as national  
177 board certification; (2) salary disparities among school districts and  
178 between the vocational-technical school system and the public schools;  
179 and (3) compression of teacher and administrator salaries. The  
180 Commissioner of Education shall report, in accordance with section 11-  
181 4a of the general statutes, on the study to the joint standing committee  
182 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
183 education by February 1, 2002.

184       Sec. 10. The Department of Education shall study ways to improve  
185 teacher and school administrator certification reciprocity with other  
186 states in order to make it easier for teachers and school administrators  
187 who are certified in other states or who have national board  
188 certification to become certified in Connecticut. The Commissioner of  
189 Education shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general  
190 statutes, on the study to the joint standing committee of the General  
191 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education by  
192 February 1, 2002.

193       Sec. 11. Section 10a-24 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
194 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

195       Whenever the term "Board of Higher Education" appears in sections  
196 4-38c, 4b-30, 5-154, 5-160, 5-177, 5-242, 10-9, 10-19, 10-38e, 10-38h, 10-  
197 38i, 10-108c, 10-109c, 10-116, 10-116l, 10-116q, 10-116r, 10-116s, 10-119a,  
198 10-145a, 10-145b, 10-155d, [10-155e,] 10-183n, 10-183v, 10-235, 10-236a,  
199 10-323g, 10-324e, 10-325c, 10-326h, 10-326j, 10-327a, 10-328d, 10-329g,  
200 10-329i, 10-330, 10-331, 10-331a, 10-331b, 10-331d, 10-331e, 10-331f, 10-  
201 332, 10-334, 10-334b, 10-334c, 10-334e, 10-334f, 10-334h, 19-30b and 52-  
202 279 and any 1982 act, said term shall be deemed to mean the "Board of  
203 Governors of Higher Education".

204       Sec. 12. (a) The sum of three hundred thousand dollars is  
205 appropriated to the Department of Education, for the fiscal year  
206 ending June 30, 2002, for the Paraprofessional-To-Teacher Program.

207 (b) The sum of seven hundred seven thousand two hundred dollars  
208 is appropriated to the Department of Education, for the fiscal year  
209 ending June 30, 2003, for the Paraprofessional-To-Teacher Program.

210 Sec. 13. (a) The sum of two hundred thousand dollars is  
211 appropriated to the Department of Higher Education, for the fiscal  
212 year ending June 30, 2002, for teacher certification test preparation  
213 classes.

214 (b) The sum of two hundred thousand dollars is appropriated to the  
215 Department of Higher Education, for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
216 2003, for teacher test preparation classes.

217 Sec. 14. (a) The sum of two hundred eighty thousand dollars is  
218 appropriated to the Department of Higher Education, for the fiscal  
219 years ending June 30, 2002, and June 30, 2003, for summer and week-  
220 end alternate route to certification programs.

221 (b) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars is appropriated  
222 to the Department of Higher Education, for fiscal year ending June 30,  
223 2002, for alternate route to certification programs in subject shortage  
224 areas.

225 (c) The sum of five hundred six thousand dollars is appropriated to  
226 the Department of Higher Education, for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
227 2003, for alternate route to certification programs in subject shortage  
228 areas.

229 Sec. 15. The sum of six hundred thirty-five thousand dollars is  
230 appropriated to the Department of Higher Education, for the fiscal  
231 years ending June 30, 2002, and June 30, 2003, for teacher preparation  
232 programs in shortage areas.

233 Sec. 16. (a) The sum of three hundred ninety thousand dollars is  
234 appropriated to the Department of Higher Education, for the fiscal  
235 year ending June 30, 2002, for the teacher fellows program.



236 (b) The sum of three hundred ninety thousand dollars is  
237 appropriated to the Department of Higher Education, for the fiscal  
238 year ending June 30, 2003, for the teacher fellows program.

239 Sec. 17. The sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars is  
240 appropriated to the Department of Higher Education, for the fiscal  
241 year ending June 30, 2002, for Master of Arts in Teaching program  
242 grants.

243 Sec. 18. (a) The sum of seven million three hundred thousand  
244 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Education, for the fiscal  
245 year ending June 30, 2002, for stipends for mentor teachers in the BEST  
246 program.

247 (b) The sum of eight million four hundred thousand dollars is  
248 appropriated to the Department of Education, for the fiscal year  
249 ending June 30, 2003, for stipends for mentor teachers in the BEST  
250 program.

251 Sec. 19. (a) The sum of three hundred thousand dollars is  
252 appropriated to the Department of Education, for the fiscal year  
253 ending June 30, 2002, for cross endorsement programs.

254 (b) The sum of five hundred seven thousand two hundred dollars is  
255 appropriated to the Department of Education, for the fiscal year  
256 ending June 30, 2003, for cross endorsement programs.

257 Sec. 20. The sum of one hundred thousand dollars is appropriated to  
258 the Department of Education, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002,  
259 for a teacher and school administrator compensation study.

260 Sec. 21. Section 10-155e of the general statutes is repealed.

261 Sec. 22. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To implement some of the recommendations of the Commission on the  
Teacher and School Administrator Shortage and Minority Recruitment.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*